Brooklynn Jacobs

Mr. Johnson and Miss. Lange  
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A real music lover isn’t afraid to admit that they love music. They eat; sleep, breath, and more importantly, they understand music. As a music lover myself, there is nothing more baffling to hear than “I like music” from someone who can only claim to know what music is. Surely these people who only “like” music just don’t know all that it does. Music might seem like a simple idea, but it isn’t until you understand how many things it is able to do, that you realize its importance. Music is more than a set of sounds that make you dance, but it’s also a manipulator – able to alter a person’s mood by something as simple as a key change. Music is a medicine, aiding anyone from anxiety patients to autistic children. Most importantly, music is a connector of people --- an instant community creator. It’s hard for me to imagine just liking music.

In high school I began to learn about music theory. It was amazing to me that something with so many rules could be so enjoyable. No one ever stops to think that their favorite pop song started on a blank scale. On that scale there had to be a key signature, and notes with the proper dictation. There had to be notes and scales for the cool beats in the background. What’s most amazing of all is that all these rules were decided in the times of the ancient Greek, and have more than outlasted the test of time. Without these rules, also known as music theory, there could be no music.

It may start with theory, but the way the composer uses it, that is really important. Music is written to evoke emotions. The composer has the power to bring a crowd to laughter, or tears by only changing the tempo. Just as a writer evokes emotion with his words, a composer tells the listener what to feel just by changing the mood of the song. This gives the average composer the power to manipulate groups of people into feeling and doing what they want.

There is a whole medicine field dedicated to the study of music as a drug. In the case of music therapy, music is a drug used to calm or excite patients as desired – using only the emotions that result from the reactions that music cause, making it a completely chemical free drug. There is no need for extensive safety warnings, because there are no physical side effects to music. The best part of using music as a drug is that it doesn’t hold the harm that heavy medicines can. Music cannot take over the body, or render one incoherent, one can listen to music and operate heavy machinery, and I’ve never heard of somebody losing their house and home due to addiction to music – because music is not a narcotic. Although it isn’t a narcotic, or crazy name brand drug, it is still strong enough to calm down and comfort the mentally ill. Although it is a powerful medicine, anyone can afford it. The freedom to sing and express oneself through sound is 100% free. It’s free to turn on the radio and listen to all the top hits one can handle. Anyone can make music, and one can listen to music, and everyone can enjoy music, all for nothing but the enjoyment of music itself.

Most importantly of all, music means community. Music can bring people together in many different ways. There is no easier bond than those between musicians. Because the musician mind is so unique it’s quite hard to match it, unless you are a musician yourself. The simple grounds of passion for creating music and sharing it with each other are more than enough for an instant friendship. Music artists make their living by putting on concerts, a way to bring people of many different walks of life into one room for one reason; to enjoy music. That fandom won’t just stay in that room, they’ll go out to the world, advertising the music with t-shirts. They’ll come together online in chat rooms, bringing friends together from across country to enjoy music as one. Music festivals will bring these people together to enjoy and expose them to new bands in a never ending cycle.

Music is such a basic part of life, people forget to stop and think about all that it is. Music is so versatile, it is easy to overlook all of its jobs. Music is so much more than come chords and a beat. It is more important than just sound or a hobby. Music is the complex theory that has lasted millions of years. Music is the power to mold human feelings with variations in compositions, or calm the mentally ill. Music is in the world around us, and to musicians, music is the reason we have friends. Music is more than what you hear on the radio. Music is a way of life.

Jamie,

So I can’t figure out how to do that fancy comments thing, so you’ll have to deal with me. I decided to separate the paragraphs on music theory, and how music manipulates, but now I’m having trouble expanding on those. Are they okay short, or should I push myself to add more? And if so do you have any advice on how to do this?

I also agree that my paragraph on the argument that music isn’t a drug isn’t strong at all. I’m wanting to change it so it’s more of a it may be a drug, but it’s not a bad drug, but I’m not sure of how to do that quite yet.   
I’m still getting used to this idea of actually rereading a paper once I think I’m done, so I’m hoping that the next round of revision will actually be significant.

Hope your weekend is going alright!! --Bj